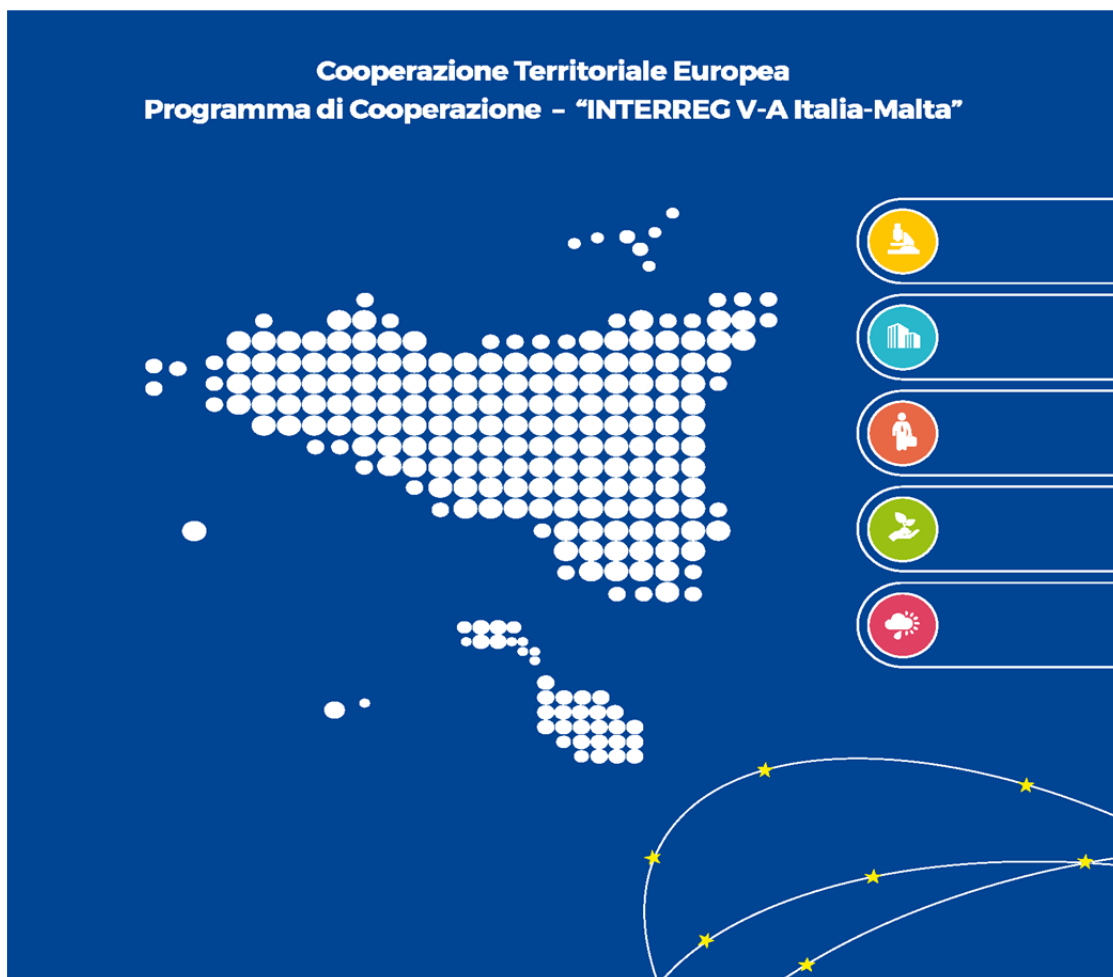


Model for the implementation reports for the European Territorial Cooperation Goal



Summary

.....	1
PART A	4
DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	4
1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	4
2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	6
3.1. Overview of the implementation	6
Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)....	8
3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the Performance Framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) — submitted in Annual Implementation Reports from 2017 onwards.....	12
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	18
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	19
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	19
8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)	20
8.1. Major projects.....	20
8.2. Joint action plans	21
PART B	22
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)	22
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)	22
9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).....	22

9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subpara-graph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013).....	22
9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	22
9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013).....	23
10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (a) AND (b), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013.....	23
10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations	23
10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy	23
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013).....	23
11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme.....	23
11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF.	23
11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate).....	23
11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation.....	24
12. . FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013).....	24
PART C.....	25
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013).....	25
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	25
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	25

PART A
DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB037
Title	Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A ITALIA-MALTA
Version	2017.0
Reporting year	2017
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	Approved through written procedure by the MC, sent on 18/05/2018 and concluded on 29/05/2018

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial -- instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

In 2017, the actions of the MA with the operational support of the JS and in collaboration with the MNCA were aimed at the development of the necessary framework and tools required for the effective implementation of the CP. In particular:

- Setting up of the JS of the programme (pursuant to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013)
- Selection of operations (pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013)
- Procedure for the designation of the MA and CA (pursuant to articles 123-124 of the Reg (EU) No. 1303/2013).

With reference to the establishment of the JS, following the problems already highlighted in the annual implementation report of last year, the three professionals selected in 2016 were contracted on 22/02/2017. Nevertheless, they still provided their constant support to the authorities of the programme in the period January-March 2017 and also with regard to the finalisation of the final report of the Malta Italy OP 07-13 by 31/3/2017. Following the presentation of the Final Implementation Report, the JS also provided its support for the clarifications requested by the EC on 14/07/2017 relating to the target of certain indicators, the complementarity between the operational programme and other financial instruments operating in the cooperation area and to the synthesis of the results of the programme.

With reference to the selection of operations, as from 02/03/2017, the JS carried out the assessment related to both the verification of eligibility and the assessment pertaining to the strategic and operational elements as well as coherence, with respect to the specific criteria for the investment priority of the project proposals submitted under the public notice 01/2016, acting in close connection with the MA and with the guidance provided by the MA. The admissibility check included 83 proposals, out of which a total of 32 were not eligible for the next evaluation phase. This is mainly due to the lack / discrepancy of the documentation transmitted, the absence of the operational headquarters of the potential beneficiaries in the programme area, the lack of legal personality and also financial aspects.

During the month of September 2017, the evaluation in connection with the strategic and operational assessment as well as their respective coherence vis-à-vis the specific criteria for investment priority of the 21 project proposals, related to SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2, was initiated. This evaluation ended at the end of October 2017 outlining 8 proposals as "eligible under conditions" and 13 "rejected" proposals. Following the formulation of the eligibility conditions by the Executive Committee (November 2017), the respective Lead Partners were invited to comply with the requests of the EXC by submitting a revised application form. Further to the subsequent evaluation of the revised AFs, it was ascertained that all the partnerships have complied with the requests of the EXC and therefore, during the meeting of 4-5 December 2017, the EXC approved the revised AFs and the final rankings related to the SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2 of the Notice 01/2016 for the subsequent transmission to the MC. It should be clarified that the evaluation activity was carried out only by two members of the JS, because of the explicit request of the MA to allocate a specific resource of the JS to the activities pertaining to the development of the Ulysses system, in view of the requirement arising from the designation of the MA. During the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 14-15 December 2017, the process of selecting the operations under SO 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2 of the Notice 01/2016 and the relative rankings, was concluded, further to which the following projects were financed:

- 2 proposals under SO 2.1 "To promote the creation and the enhancement of enterprises (micro, small and medium) in the intervention field of the cooperation area", investment priority 3.a "promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and promoting the creation of new firms, including through business incubators" for an amount of € 2,539,766 ERDF;
- 2 proposals for SO 3.1 "To contribute towards the arrest of the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the area, maintain and reactivate the ecosystem and the protected area", for Investment priority 6.d "Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soils, promoting services for ecosystems, even through Natura 2000 and the green infrastructure" for an amount of € 2,914,588 as ERDF;
- 4 proposals under SO 3.2 "To promote systemic actions and technologies able to mitigate the climate change effects and the natural and anthropic risks with a particular

reference to the catastrophic from the maritime risks", for the Investment priority 5.b " promoting investments targeting specific risks, thereby ensuring resilience in case of natural disasters and emergency management systems" for an amount of € 7,126,148 from the ERDF.

From a financial point of view, notice 01/2016 provided for an ERDF allocation of € 24,294,651 for SO 2.1, 3.1, 3.2. The projects financed absorbed financial resources amounting to € 12,580,501, resulting in overall ERDF savings of € 11,714,150, distributed as follows:

- SO 2.1 - PI 3.a, ERDF savings amounting to € 1,460,234
- SO 3.1 - PI 6.d, ERDF savings amounting to € 8,455,063
- SO 3.2 - PI 5.b, ERDF savings amounting to € 1,798,852.

With reference to the procedure for designating the MA and the CA, in 2017, work on the drafting and integration of certain attachments pertaining to the document "The functions and procedures in place for the MA and the CA" was carried out in line with the Annex III of the Reg (EU) n.1011 / 2014. Furthermore, the update of the "Ulysses" information system is in progress assuring its compliance with the EU regulations' framework. The system is subject to a specific audit by the AA which was carried out with the specialized technical support of IGRUE and its IT partner SOGEL on 19 and 20 December 2017. The audit highlighted that the system ensures the collection, recording and storage in electronic format of the data related to each operation, necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants by specifying the breakdown of all the data required for measuring the indicators. In particular, "Ulysses" ensures the collection of data provided by Annex III of Reg. 480/2014 of the EC and compliance with the provisions of Art. 122 par. 3 of the CPR, ensuring that all information may be exchanged between the beneficiaries and the MA, the CA and the AA by means of electronic data exchange systems. The system complies with the "Protocollo Unico di Colloquio" defined by the IGRUE and translates the organizational forecasts of the DMCS. Following the audit carried out on 19-20 / 12/2017, the AA drew up a report and an audit opinion issued to the MA at the beginning of 2018, necessary for the designation of the MA and the AA.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Asse prioritario	Informazioni chiave sull'attuazione dell'asse prioritario con riferimento a sviluppi chiave, a problemi significativi e alle azioni adottate per affrontarli
Axis 1	Promoting the smart and sustainable growth through and innovation	During the 2017, no operations were selected under this axis of the CP. Thus the MA did not record any implementation progress. Further to the submission of the notice of Ares (2017) 3913375 of 04/08/2017 from the EC concerning the observations to the 2016 AIR and the clarifications about the measures that would have been adopted to recover the delay in the advancement of the expenses for the Axes I, II and III, the MA drafted the proposal to approve the rankings of the Notice 01/2016 by specific objective. The EXC and the MC approved the proposal and therefore the projects on Axis I of the Notice 01/2016 will be approved in 2018 by means of a written procedure.
Axis 2	Promoting the competitiveness in the cross-border area	During 2017, 2 projects were approved under SO 2.1, measure 3.a. These operations will contribute towards the action envisaged by the measure 3.a "Financial support for the set up and strengthening

		<p>of new companies (micro, small and medium) operating in the sectors of environmental protection and quality of life and health of citizens". The two financed operations, based on the information present in each application form, will allow the attainment of the target values of output indicators CO01, CO03 and CO04 of the programme. With reference to the output indicator 2.1.3 of the programme, on the basis of the information available in each application form, the two approved operations will not allow full achievement of the target value and therefore on the basis of the decisions of the MC during the meeting held on 14 -15 December 2017, this implementation deficit must be filled by taking into consideration a new selection procedure that also takes into account the economies registered under PA OS 2.1. During 2017, no operations were approved under SO 2.2, PI 8.e. in view of of the measures taken to recover the delay in the progress of the expenditure approved by the EXC and by the MC, the projects under PA 2.2 will be approved in 2018.</p>
Axis 3	Protecting the environment and fostering an efficient use of resources	<p>In 2017 2 operations were approved under SO 3.1, PI 6.d. These operations will contribute to both actions envisaged by the IP namely: "Actions to protect the terrestrial and marine biodiversity of the area and the sites of the Natura 2000 network" and "Support for the dissemination of knowledge and use of the natural heritage through the creation of services and / or innovative systems and the use of advanced technologies". The two financed operations, on the basis of the information available in each AF, will allow to reach the target values of the output indicators 3.1.1, CO023 and 3.1.3 of the CP. Nevertheless, on the basis of the determinations of the Monitoring Committee (14-15 December 2017), in the course of 2018 a "targeted call" will be necessary that also takes into account the savings incurred under SO 3.1.</p> <p>In 2017, 4 operations were approved under SO 3.2, PI 5.b. These operations will contribute to both actions envisaged by the IP: "Interventions to mitigate the effects of climate change" and "Interventions to cope with the various risk scenarios". The four financed operations, on the basis of the information present in each application form, will allow to reach the target value of output indicator 3.2.1 of the CP. With reference to the output indicator 3.2.2 of the programme, based on the information in each AF, the four approved transactions will not allow the full achievement of the target value and therefore on the initiative of the Monitoring Committee (14-15 December 2017); this implementation deficit must be addressed by the launch of a new selection procedure that also takes into account the savings incurred under PA 3.2.</p>
Axis 4	Technical assistance	<p>In 2017, the procedures for the selection of the following three members of the Joint Secretariat for the profiles were completed as follows: coordinator of the Joint Secretariat, and two officers</p>

		<p>responsible for monitoring the Program and evaluating and managing the projects. The three components selected for the establishment of the JS were contracted on February 22, 2017, but they were legally effective to 16/03/2017.</p>
--	--	--

Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

Table 1

Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Year of Reference	Target Value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1.1	Enterprises which adopt technologies and innovative service created and / or enhanced at cross-border level	ΔN	15	2013	+100	-	-	-	-							
2.1a	Enterprises which engage in cross-border commercial activities	ΔN	15.247	2013	+12	-	-	-	-							
2.1b	New employees of active enterprises in intervention fields: safeguarding the environment and the quality of life and citizens' health	ΔN	736.760	2013	+20	-	-	-	-							
2.2	Workers participating in cross-border mobility initiatives	Δn	40	2013	+100	-	-	-	-							
3.1a	Protected marine sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity protection	ΔKms	200	2013	+100	-	-	-	-							
3.1b	Protected terrestrial sites and areas that develop joint actions for the biodiversity protection	ΔKms	300	2013	+150	-	-	-	-							
3.2	Area monitored by cross-border technological system	ΔKms	47.500	2013	+23.750	-	-	-	-							
4.1	To guarantee support actions for the implementation of the programme, improving the efficiency, the effectiveness of the management, and the monitoring of the same															

Table 2

Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator))	Measur ement Unit	Target value (1) (2023)	CUMUL ATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
	(CO01)	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprises	100	0	0	0	0							
	(CO04)	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	enterprises	100	0	0	0	0							
	(CO43)	Number of participants in cross-border mobility initiatives	persons	200	0	0	0	0							
	1.1.3	Spin-offs generate through research activities	number	10	0	0	0	0							
	(CO01)	Number of enterprises receiving support	enterprise	21	0	0	0	0							
	(CO03)	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	enterprise	6	0	0	0	0							
	(CO04)	Enterprises receiving non-financial support	enterprise	15	0	0	0	0							
	2.1.3	Networks of cross-border services created for new or existing enterprises	number	3	0	0	0	0							
	2.2.1	Activated operative cross-border networks which support the demand and supply of labour	Number	2	0	0	0	0							
	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small, and medium) that activated stages	number	50	0	0	0	0							
	2.2.3	Protocols and / or institutional agreement which promote mobility of persons in a cross-border context	number	3	0	0	0	0							
	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 networks	number	10	0	0	0	0							
	(CO023)	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	20	0	0	0	0							

	ID	Indicator	Measur	Target	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations	
	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	number	4	0	0	0	0								
	3.2.1	Surface covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change	Square metres	375,000,000	0	0	0	0								
	3.2.2	Surface covered by ICT instrumentation for the monitoring of the risks of the area	Square metres	3,750,000,000	0	0	0	0								
	4.1.1	Implementation analysis documents and reports (Final execution report, evaluation reports, reports and notes on the state of implementation and planning)	N.	10	0	0	0	0								
	4.1.2	Accompanying structures created (Joint Secretariat + Contact point)	N.	2	0	0	0	1								
	4.1.3	Number of workers whose salary is co-financed by Technical Assistance	N.	6	0	0	0	3								
	4.1.4	Audit of management and control system and operations	N.	18	0	0	0	0								
	4.1.5	Monitoring and supporting activities for potential beneficiaries and stakeholders (information workshop training and exchange of experiences, manuals, guidelines, etc.)	N.	25	0	0	7	13								
	Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]															
	Fully implemented operations [actual achievem															

	ID	Indicator	Measur	Target	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations		
ent]																	

(1) the final targets for the Technical Assistance Priority Axis are optional

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the Performance Framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in Annual Implementation Reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

Table 3

Information on the milestones and targets defined in the Performance Framework

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
Axis 1	Output indicator	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprise	10	0	0	0	0							
	Financial indicator	1.1b	Expense declared to the EC	Euros	2.637.129	0	0	0	0							
Axis 2	Output indicator	CO03	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	enterprise	1	0	0	0	0							

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
	Output indicator	2.2.2	Enterprises (micro, small and medium) that activated traineeships	number	10	0	0	0	0							
	Financial indicator	2.2a	Expense declared to the EC	euros	1.318.565	0	0	0	0							
Axis 3	Output indicator	3.1.1	Recovery and evaluation interventions of the zones of the Natura 2000 network	Number	3	0	0	0	0							
	Output indicator	3.1.3	Awareness campaigns for the proper enjoyment of protected areas	Number	1	0	0	0	0							
	Output indicator	3.2.1	Area covered by pilot measures for the mitigation of the effects of climate change	Square metres	112.500.500	0	0	0	0							
	Financial indicator	3.2b	Expense declared to the	Euro	3.581.408	0	0	0	0							

Priority Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Observations (if necessary)
			EC													
<p><i>* Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.</i></p>																

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 4

Financial information at priority axis and programme level

as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (1) [Model for transmission of financial data] (2) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal.¹

Priority Axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support	Total funding	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%)	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Less developed	Public	15.512.531	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	8.790.435	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
3	ERDF	Less developed	Public	23.876.060	85%	0,00	0%	0,00	0,00	0%	0
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	3.529.412	85%	1.646.911,81	47%	341.998,20	341.998,20	10%	5
Total				51.708.438	85%	1.646.911,81	3,18%	341.998,20	341.998,20	0,66%	5

(1) GU L 286 of 30.9.2014, pg. 1.

(2) Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland).

Not applicable

Table 5

Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

(as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes)

Table 6

Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support (*) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR))	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area(%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area (1)	Not applicable for 2017	Not applicable for 2017	Not applicable for 2017	Not applicable for 2017

2

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

<p>The Evaluation Plan of the INTERREG V-A Italy Malta programme includes both operational evaluations - regarding the implementation processes of the Programme and the structures involved, the ability of the Programme to achieve its specific objectives, through the correct logical connection between actions and expected results, and the methods and levels of use of available resources - as well as strategic evaluations, inherent in the contribution of the CP to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy goal.</p> <p>The MA drafted the plan on the basis of the provisions of Art. 114 of (EU) Regulation No.</p>

² (*) ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(1) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out by Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013

1303/2013 and, on the basis of its content, commissioned the Valuation and Certification Centre for Public Investments (NVVIP) of the Sicilian Region, a technical support structure for the "*programming, evaluation, implementation and verification phases of action plans, programmes and policies promoted and implemented by each administration*" (Act No. 144/1999), functionally located within the Programming Department, to carry out the implementation evaluation.

More specifically, on the basis of the planning of the evaluation path contained within the document approved by the Monitoring Committee, the NVVIP of the Sicilian Region was charged, by prot. note no. 4759 of 15 March 2017, with the execution of the implementation evaluation (part I), referring to the period from the launch of the programme to May 2017.

This evaluation took into consideration the main organisational and administrative aspects of the structure pertaining to the implementation of the Programme, together with the main procedural aspects implemented during the very first phase of the implementation of the Programme, including the first evidence with regard to the participation of the potential beneficiaries in the first call of the Programme.

Part 1 of the implementation of the programme (covering the period between the launch of the programme – May 2017) was carried out on the basis of the definition of the following evaluation questions: Can the administrative structures of the Programme ensure the implementation of the Programme? Are the procedures, that have been put in place to ensure the timely launch of the CP, adequate? Has the Programme adopted concrete measures to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries? Does the CP administration help to foster the involvement and the participation of the stakeholders (beneficiaries, authorities/bodies etc.) in the implementation of the programme?

In the context of a substantial adequacy of the management structures of the Programme, the evaluation highlighted certain aspects that need specific intervention in order to guarantee an effective and efficient management of the CP. In particular, as an element preordained to the definitive designation of the Authorities, it seemed urgent to ensure the full functionality of the Programme's Information System (IS) of the CP as well as initialising the procedures relating to the designation of the controllers for the Italian territory. Similarly, the conclusions of the evaluation called for a strengthening of the human resources assigned to the MA, both from the quantitative point of view and also with regards to specific professional skills, which are in line and meeting the regulatory framework requirements of the 2014-2020 programming period, as well as the increase in the workload deriving from a programme with a financial allocation significantly higher than the 2007-2013 programming period.

The evaluation activities concluded in May 2017 showed that, by then, developments of the CP that were not fully in line with the initial forecasts and a delay mainly due to the overlap of the 2007-2013 closing activities with those of the launch of the 2014-2020 CP. The changes in the administration structure dedicated to the implementation of the Programme and the termination of the support activities carried out by the JS further contributed to the delay in the implementation.

Considering this, in the conclusions of the assessment, the MA seems nevertheless in a position to ensure an implementation in line with the timeframes of the Programme, without prejudice to the urgent need to promptly overcome the criticality in the designation of the Authorities and to complete certain organizational steps for the definition of ongoing implementation procedures and planning of future procedures to allow full absorption of financial resources.

In relation to the work carried out to reduce the administrative burden for the beneficiaries, the actions taken by the MA were deemed to be only partially satisfactory with respect to the commitments made in this regard in the CP and consequently further areas that required improvements were outlined. This assessment was mainly due to the requirement,

which was not adequately supported and not in line with the forecasts of simplification of the implementation processes envisaged by the CP, to compulsorily request the transmission of the hard copies of project proposals, in addition to the online system, from the projects of the first call.

The evaluation also highlighted that during the implementation of the Programme, certain procedures were adopted in line with the Code of Conduct on Partnership aimed at increasing stakeholder engagement. In addition to the stabilization and continuity given by the interlocution with the ERDF 2014-2020 Partnership Table, the preparatory activities of the Notice have led to an enlargement of the programme partnership. However, similarities were detected between the presence and the role of the Italian and Maltese partnerships.

Overall, the management of the Programme has applied the indications of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds. On this regards, the composition of the partnership interested in projects' submission, the composition of the stakeholders participated in the informative sessions related to the Notice and the partnerships created suggested a careful evaluation of the proposals finally selected that pay particular attention both to the operational contents of the actions and the institutional mission/specialization of the proponents.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

With reference to the financial data for the year 2017, in particular for Axis 4 of the programme, the eligible public expenditure declared by the beneficiaries to the managing authority, amounts to € 341,998.20.

With reference to the output and result indicators for the year 2017, it should be noted these have not recorded significant advances for Axes I, II and III. In relation to Axis IV, in 2017, progress was made for the indicators 4.1.3 "Number of workers whose salary is co-financed by Technical Assistance" and 4.1.5 "Activities to assist and support potential beneficiaries and stakeholders". With regard to indicator 4.1.3, the progress recorded corresponds to the three professionals selected in the context of the call for the establishment of the Joint Secretariat pursuant to art. 23 of the Regulation (EU) n. 1299/2013. Regarding indicator 4.1.5, the six activities to assist and support beneficiaries and stakeholders consist of:

- 6 bilateral meetings with potential Lead partners of the Notice 01/2016 for the modification of the AF under conditions based under Axis 3.1, 3.2, 2.1.

With reference to possible aspects that make an impact on the results of the programme, the following should be noted:

- the need to start a new procedure for the selection of profile IV of the JS in order to strengthen the activities of the Secretariat. In particular, in 2017, negotiations between the MA and the MNCA leading to the revision of the text of the public notice were initiated, in order to overcome the problem arising from the absence of suitable candidates for the requested profile.
- The need to revise the selection criteria and to simplify the application pack. This activity will be undertaken during 2018, following the completion of the selection procedures for the projects of SO 1.1 and 2.2 and for any future publication of calls.
- The possibility to engage, for any future calls for proposals, external experts in charge of the quality assessment of the project proposals, being independent from the JS. This is necessary to ensure that the JS may give the go-ahead to the selected

operations avoiding any overlaps and ensuring the implementation of any actions necessary in connection with actual programming and reprogramming. This activity will be carried out in 2018 following the completion of the selection procedures for the projects of SO 1.1 and 2.2 and for any future calls.

With reference to the corrective measures identified by the MA, it should be noted that Servizio V, responsible for the implementation of the programme, explicitly requested new staff suitable for the management, control, implementation and monitoring of the programme to the competent bodies of the regional authorities.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

3500

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

please find attached the citizen's summary

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report.

Not applicable

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

**Table 7
Major projects**

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/ submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4.procurement ; 5. design	Main Outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1) (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

Not applicable

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

Not applicable

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans.

Not applicable

Table 8
Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50 % implemented 3 Star ted 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contr i -bution to JAP	Pr ior ity axis	Type of JAP 1. nor mal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commis - sion	[Planned] star t of implemen - tation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results]	Total eligible expenditure cer tifi ed to the Commis - sion	Obser va - tions (if necessar y)

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them.

Not applicable

PART B
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of
Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION
PROGRAMME (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4)
of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4)
of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS — Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

NOT APPLICABLE

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to
promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities,
and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender
perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation
(EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No
1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

NOT APPLICABLE

9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and
Article 14(4), subpara-graph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

NOT APPLICABLE

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of
Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data.

Optional: clarification on the given values — <3500>

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

NOT APPLICABLE

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (a) AND (b), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

NOT APPLICABLE

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

NOT APPLICABLE

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

NOT APPLICABLE

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF.

NOT APPLICABLE

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

NOT APPLICABLE

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

NOT APPLICABLE

12. . FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU)No 1303/2013)

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14
Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework	
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission
Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

PART C
REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU)No
1303/2013)

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

NOT APPLICABLE

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN – PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

NOT APPLICABLE